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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SS-15
NSC-05 L-03 SP-02 /063 W
----------031259Z 054984 /44
R 031030Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9184
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONEON
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0001

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, DM
SUBJ: AIR AFRIQUE AND BENIN

REF: STATE 285700

1. CONVERSATION WITH CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTOR LAWSON YIELDED NO INFORMATION THAT OVERALL GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN (GPRB) RELATIONSHIP WITH AIR AFRIQUE (AA) WILL CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY IN NEAR FUTURE. ACCORDING TO LAWSON, GPRB HAS NO RECOURSE OTHER THAN TO ACCEPT WHAT IS OFFERED BY AIR AFRIQUE. IN 1975, BENIN ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY TWO PERCENT OF AA TURNOVER, WHILE RECEIPTS FROM PASSENGER FLIGHTS DROPPED BY 14 PERCENT AND THOSE OF FREIGHT BY SEVEN PERCENT. AT PRESENT IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER AA WILL DROP ANY OF THE TEN WEEKLY FLIGHTS INTO
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COTONOU IN NEXT SCHEDULE CHANGE SLATED FOR MARCH 77. LAWSON INDICATED THAT THIS MOVE IS NOT UNEXPECTED AS AA CURRENTLY OPERATING AT LOSS IN BENIN.

2. DESPITE DECLINE IN TRAVEL TO AND FROM BENIN BECAUSE OF DROP IN BUSINESS TRAVEL, RELATIVE LOW PURCHASING POWER OF BENINESE, AND DIFFICULT GPRB EXIT PROCEDURES, GPRB PLACES HEAVY STRESS

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ON INTERNATIONAL AVIATION POLICY. RECENT GRANT OF PASSENGER RIGHTS TO NIGERIAN AIRWAYS, NEW SERVICES BY AEROFLOT, AND SIGNATURE OF ACCORDS WITH SWISS AIR WERE DONE OVER AA OBJECTIONS AND INDICATE GPRB DESIRE TO MAINTAIN RELATIVE DEGREE OF IN-DEPENDENCE FROM WHAT MUST BE VIEWED IN NATIONAL IDEOLOGICAL TERMS "NEO-COLONIALIST" MAKE-UP OF AA. LAWSON TOLD EMBOFF THAT GPRB CONSIDERS AA FRENCH, NOT AFRICAN, ORGANIZATION. LAWSON ALSO CHARACTERIZED TWO WEEKLY JOINT PAN-AM/AA FLIGHTS INTO COTONOU AS "VERY IMPORTANT" TO HIS COUNTRY DESPITE LOW AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC.
THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COTONO00001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770001-1165
Format: TEL
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770186/aaaacwyq.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 285700
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3674597
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR AFRIQUE AND BENIN
TAGS: EAIR, DM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0e3e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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